

# EXCEL 2021

Exciting experiences for extension

Year 7 elective selection guide for acceleration courses & taster electives

# Principal's Welcome

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Welcome to the Callaghan EXCEL 2021, an exciting, new Year 7 elective program designed to give you the opportunity to explore and discover beyond the standard high school curriculum.

Are you interested in extending yourself in an existing area of passion or interest, or would you prefer to get a taste of something new?

This booklet outlines all the elective courses you can choose from and shows you how to apply for your preferred elective. There's also information for your parents and carers about what our EXCEL extension learning program is all about.

It's a good idea to go through this booklet with your family, discuss your favourite electives and complete the application form together.

To support you with your decision-making we will be running an EXCEL Information Session at your Primary School. In this session you will meet our EXCEL Coordinator and get an opportunity to ask any questions you might have about the program.

Good luck and I look forward to meeting you personally next year.

*Hayley Macdonald*  
*Principal, Callaghan College Waratah Campus*

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# What is EXCEL?

The EXCEL elective program is unique to Callaghan College and gives you an opportunity to deepen and extend your learning in an area of interest, or get a taste of a variety of subjects that are available in later years of high school.

**You will spend four hours a fortnight as part of the regular school timetable on your EXCEL elective.**

In addition to your EXCEL elective, Year 7 students study seven core subjects as part of the NSW Curriculum. These subjects are English; Mathematics; Science; Personal Development Health and Physical Education (PDHPE); History and Geography (HSIE); Design and Technology; Music and Visual Arts.

Our EXCEL electives are organised into five streams or pathways of study. You can choose elective subjects from a single X-Stream all the way to Stage 6 (Year 11 and 12) allowing you to develop deep learning and expertise in your specific interest area over time. There's also the flexibility to apply for a different stream each year so you can pursue multiple areas of interest.

Electives in our four X-Streams are designed to be more academically challenging than our Taster Electives. For this reason, we ask students applying for the CREATE-X, QUEST-X, SPORT-X or STEM-X streams to provide evidence of their established interest and talent in the subject area as part of their application (see pages 30-32).

## CREATE-X:

For students wanting to enhance their artistic talents, this pathway will extend you in a range of creative industries, including dance, music, visual and digital arts.

## QUEST-X:

For students who are passionate about the world around us. This pathway explores humanities, language, history, entrepreneurship and more.

## SPORT-X:

For students who love all things sport, health promotion and physical fitness. This pathway will challenge you to maximise your physical abilities and explore the physical and behavioural foundations of sport and exercise.

## STEM-X:

For students who love investigating the world around us and solving real world problems. This pathway provides you with additional in-depth opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

## Taster Electives:

For students who don't yet have an established interest area or are not sure what to choose. This stream provides a taste of a number of different courses throughout Stage 4 (Year 7 and 8). The benefit is variety and breadth of learning, rather than extension in a single area of interest.

# Inquiry Based Learning

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All our EXCEL electives are based on an Inquiry Based Learning philosophy. This is a highly engaging, student centered method. It aims to foster future learning skills and provide opportunities for students to apply and practice these skills through real world, personally meaningful projects.

Learning is organised around a driving question or challenge that requires deep research and inquiry; students then engage in enrichment experiences through our links with industry and community; and finally they are required to share their learning with a final product, showcase or performance.



## Critical Thinking Skills

Focusing on a student's ability to think creatively and analyse, synthesise, and apply information to make informed decisions and solve real world problems.



## Teamwork Skills

Focusing on a student's ability to cooperate with other students and manage relationships appropriately in order to achieve a common goal.



## Communication Skills

These skills focus on a student's ability to share their thoughts clearly and appropriately and confidently present their learning to an audience.



## Digital Literacy Skills

These skills focus on a student's ability to responsibly use a wide range of current and emerging technologies to aid or extend their learning.



## Organisational Skills

These skills focus on a student's ability to meet deadlines by planning projects, managing their time and setting and achieving goals.




## Citizenship Skills

These skills focus on a student's ability to appreciate diverse perspectives, give and receive feedback and develop their awareness of and skill in ethical decision making.

# Getting Started

Ready to check out what's on offer? Read through the course descriptions on the following pages and find out what you can expect to **DISCOVER** and learn about, what you will be able to **CREATE** and how you will be expected to **SHARE** your learning in each elective.

## Tips for making the right choice

- 1. Start with thinking about what you like doing:** your interests, qualities and skills. What subjects are you good at? What do you enjoy studying at school? Do you have specific passions outside school you would like to develop further? Does your school report highlight areas that you shine in?
  - 2. Talk to your teacher and family.** Discuss your elective options with your Year 6 teacher and parents and carers. They have a good understanding of your strengths and may have some good suggestions and new ideas. It's particularly important to talk to your parents and carers about any additional fees or outside school excursions associated with any of your preferred courses.
  - 3. Participate in the EXCEL Information Session at your Primary School.** This is a great opportunity to chat to our EXCEL Coordinator about the different courses on offer, hear from current Year 7 students about their electives and get all your questions answered.
  - 4. Your choice.** It is great to talk about learning with friends, but do not select an elective course just because your friends are doing it. A year is a long time in a course that you don't enjoy.
  - 5. Be ready for the challenge.** Be sure to select elective preferences you are prepared to do. If the elective course requires you to perform, participate, speak publicly, create or problem solve, you need to be up to the task.
  - 6. Go for a Taster Elective if you still can't choose.** The Taster Elective stream is a great starting point and will give you a taste of two different courses during Stage 4 (Year 7 and 8). This can help you to discover what you might want to focus on when you get to Year 9 and 10.
  - 7. See  symbol for course options for students with Special Education needs.**
- Remember, if you don't like your choice, you can always apply to change before Week 4 Term 1.**





# CREATE-X



**Are you passionate about dance, music or drama? Do you love drawing, painting or modelling clay? Are you a natural at performance or singing? Can you design amazing invites, posters and magazines or film short movies? CREATE-X is for the creative spirit and offers a range of options for students to express themselves.**

Our Create-X teachers are from our Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) Faculty. They are passionate about their subject areas and love facilitating deep learning in their students.

They craft driving questions to ignite wonder and passion in their class, and guide each student to develop their own ideas, stretch their limits, work through problems, ask tough questions, reflect and share their learning through performances or showcases.

They are all life long learners in the creative and performing arts - outside of work they are musicians, film makers, dancers, photographers, designers, singers and painters.



Pictured: Miss Salter, left, and her sister performing at a wedding

***"I love what I'm teaching. Music is a huge part of my life. I have set up a recording studio at home and I'm constantly making music. I'm always experimenting and trying out new things. Being in a classroom full of students who share the passion is so much fun."***

***- Miss Salter, CREATE-X Coordinator***

## Meet Sanne - Visual and Digital Arts student

### Why I chose this elective

I make my own art at home, like painting things and building sculptures. I'm really interested in Art and wanted to learn more about it. I thought the Visual Arts elective would suit me!

### What I love about my elective

I love that I can explore different ways of doing Art that I didn't know before.

My teacher knows Art, is always interested in what we are doing and helps us to get better. We are

working on a project at the moment that lets me experiment with different mediums - paint, drawing, crayons and collage.

I also love how we get to review each other's work. Receiving feedback from my classmates has helped me refine my work.

**CREATE -X Visual Arts is just one option, turn the page to see more.**



# Music Enrichment

## A course for students with a passion for music

### Discover

- Learn the fundamentals of music performance and composition
- Experiment with a wide range of technologies used in the music industry, including recording equipment
- Learn microphone techniques
- Engage in personalised learning opportunities for your instrument of choice (including vocals)

### Create

- Performances and compositions using available instruments (keyboards, acoustic guitars, electric guitars and drum kits) as well as an instrument of your choice

### Share

- Students will be expected to showcase their acquired skills at various school events during the year

### Tips for applying

- This subject should be considered by students who wish to represent the school in one of our campus or College bands and/or perform at our Variety Night and other school events
- In your application form be sure to provide examples of your previous music experience and achievements inside and outside of school

### Parent Information

- Check your child is ok with in-class and public performances as these are a requirement of this course
- Cost: \$50 (itemised in your school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Music continued
- Year 9 Music
- Year 9 and 10 Music Production



### Stage 6 Subject selection

- Preliminary and HSC Music
- Music Industry (VET)



### Career

- Musician
- Recording Engineer
- Music Therapist
- Songwriter
- Music Director/Conductor

# Dance Enrichment

For dancers with a passion for performance and choreography

## Discover

- The fundamental of dance as an artistic practice, including the elements of dance and safe dance practice
- How to use technology to enhance performance
- Visit and use our new dance facilities at Jesmond Senior Campus

## Create

- Solo and small group dance performances, incorporating set movements as well as your own and classmates' choreography
- Photos and film to document dance performances for reflection

## Share

- Your learning through class and public performances throughout the year
- Your reflections on your own learning and performances, as well as provide constructive feedback to classmates

## Tips for applying

- This subject should be considered by students who are interested in representing the school at Star Struck, Hunter Dance Festival, or as part of our school Performance Troupe
- In your application form be sure to provide examples of your previous dance experience and achievements inside and outside of school
- Don't forget to include why you want to do this course

## Parent Information

- Check your child is ok with public performances as they are a requirement in this course
- Cost: \$50 (itemised in your school fees)
- There maybe additional costs if your child also chooses to represent the school in co-curricular dance opportunities e.g. Star Struck



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Dance continued
- Year 9 Dance elective



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC Dance
- Entertainment Industry (VET)



### Career

- Professional Dancer
- Choreographer
- Stage Manager
- Dance Therapist
- Dance Teacher



# Visual & Digital Arts Enrichment

A course for students with imagination and artistic flair

## Discover

- New artwork processes and materials
- Industry-standard digital art creation tools and techniques

## Create

- A variety of artworks using drawing techniques (including digital forms), print making methods, 3D forms (including sculpture and ceramics), stop motion animation, painting and collage

## Share

- Exhibit your work at school Open Days and pop up galleries during the year

## Tips for applying

- In your application form be sure to provide examples of your previous experience and achievements in visual arts
- Consider including some photos of artworks that you're proud of with your application.
- Don't forget to write why you want to do the course

## Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Visual Arts continued
- Year 9 and 10 Visual Arts
- Year 9 and 10 Photography
- Year 9 and 10 Digital Media



### Stage 6 subject selection

- Preliminary and HSC Visual Arts
- Preliminary and HSC Photography, Video & Digital Imaging
- Preliminary and HSC Visual Design



### Career

- Professional Artist
- Designer
- Graphic Designer
- Illustrator
- Photographer

# QUEST-X



**Are you passionate about communication and language, or learning about people, places and ideas? Do you love to tell stories, learn about different cultures or watch a good film or play? QUEST-X is for students who are curious about the world around them and provides a range of choices in the humanities and social sciences.**

Our QUEST-X teachers are from our English, Languages and Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) Faculties. They are passionate about their subject areas and love facilitating deep learning in their students.

They craft driving questions to ignite wonder and passion in their class, and guide each student to develop their own ideas, stretch their limits, work through problems, ask tough questions, reflect and share their learning through presentations or showcases.

They are all life long learners in the humanities and social sciences - outside of work they love travel, literature, culture, languages and advocating for a better world.



Pictured: Ms Seferovic, left, with author Jack Heath

***“I come from a long line of authors, filmmakers and artists. Films and literature have always been a big part of my life. In my spare time I love attending film openings and book launches and I’m always looking for opportunities to introduce the authors and filmmakers to my students at school. I’m loving teaching students who are as passionate about books and films as I am!” - Ms Seferovic, Creative License Teacher***

## Meet Sebastian - Creative License student

### Why I chose this elective

I chose this elective because I’m interested in films and filmmaking. In Creative License you get to make films and be creative - you can go in your own direction.

### What I love about my elective

You can create your own books and films - and you get to choose your focus! I also like that we learn

how to use photoshop to make our own movie posters, watch films at the cinemas and learn how movies are made.

Creative License is just one option, the QUEST-X stream also covers Aboriginal Studies and From Space Exploration to Dinosaurs. Turn the page to find more.



# Creative License

## For students who love a good story

### Discover

- An appreciation for storytelling across a range of mediums, including film, novels and comics
- Sharpen your critical thinking skills by evaluating the creative choices made by artists
- Explore more about the creative industries through visits from industry professionals, including authors and publishers

### Create

- Write a review (as an article or video blog) of a live production, film or a TV version of a book or play
- Produce a short film trailer and promotional poster
- Work with classmates to compile classwork into a digital arts and culture magazine or website

### Share

- Your work as part of a published anthology for the school library
- Showcase your short trailer and poster at our campus Open Day

### Tips for applying

- In your application form be sure to share about your interest in story telling, creative writing and communication
- Consider including some creative writing samples, a video you have edited or examples of your digital design creations

### Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in school fees)
- This course involves mandatory enrichment excursions to cinemas, as well as class visits from industry experts and authors



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Lights, Camera, Action
- Year 9 and 10 Film Studies



### Stage 6 Subject selection

- Standard and Advanced English
- Preliminary and HSC Business Studies



### Career

- Writer
- Journalist
- Communications Officer
- Marketing Manager
- Graphic Designer

# From Dinosaurs to Space Exploration

For the explorer who wants to learn about Earth and our universe

## Discover

- The phases of the formation of Earth and the universe
- Learn about the evolution of dinosaurs
- Explore the various phases of human exploration (e.g. migration, sea and space exploration)

## Create

- Develop your research skills, writing and presentation skills
- Create Sway presentations on a specific prehistoric era and an explorer of your choice
- Construct a website to share your research on a dinosaur of your choice

## Share

- Present your Sways to the class
- Publish your website to share with your peers
- Showcase your learning in your student portfolio and as part of Open Day and other school events

## Tips for applying

- In your application form be sure to share about your interest in exploration and discovery. Do you like reading about explorers? Do you enjoy watching documentaries about space or dinosaurs? Tell us why you want to do this course.

## Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in your school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Quest Creator
- Year 8 History's Mysteries
- Year 8 Archaeology: Digging the Dirt
- Year 9 and 10 History and Geography



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Ancient History
- Modern History
- Earth and Environmental Science
- Geography



### Career

- Geoscientist
- Archivist
- Geographer
- Archaeologist
- Teacher

# Aboriginal Studies

## Learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and perspectives

### Discover

- Local Aboriginal perspectives, knowledge and belief systems
- First Nations peoples' ongoing connection to the environment, including land management and food production practices
- The role and significance of art and music in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures
- The rights and freedoms of First Nations peoples
- How to promote reconciliation in our school and wider community

### Create

- A class project that will allow you to explore, understand and personally connect with Aboriginal perspectives, culture and histories. The class may elect to create a map to educate people about local significant sites, an art mural or video showcasing local knowledge, or a picture book presenting local stories

### Share

- Your learning through the development of a teaching and learning resource to be used by other students and teachers

- Showcase your classwork to your peers and community at relevant school events

### Tips for applying

- In your application form be sure to share about your interest in exploring different cultures and say why you want to do this course

### Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in your school fees)
- Students will participate in enrichment activities to extend their learning, including class visits from members of our local Aboriginal community and field trips to local significant sites



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Cultural Studies
- Year 9 and 10 International Studies



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC Society and Culture
- Preliminary or HSC Aboriginal Studies



### Career

- Anthropologist
- Social Researcher
- Human Resources
- Social Worker
- Community Development

# Languages of the World

Discover languages and cultures from around the world

## Discover

- Take a virtual tour of the world, stopping at different locations to learn elements of the language, culture and traditions

## Create

- Conduct interviews with people from these different locations
- Take part in traditional festivals and games
- Research and prepare cultural foods
- Exchange emails and videos with schools from around the world

## Share

- Your learning through a portfolio of work that will be showcased at our Campus Open Day
- Participate in organising cultural events within our school community e.g. Harmony Week and NAIDOC celebrations

## Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in your school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Language (Japanese or German)
- Year 8 Society and Culture
- Year 9 German
- Year 9 and 10 Languages



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC French, Japanese or German
- Preliminary and HSC Society and Culture
- Preliminary and HSC Aboriginal Studies



### Career

- Translator
- Interpreter
- Diplomat
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Customer Service



# Legend, Myth & Mystery

For history enthusiasts with a nose for 'myth-ery'

## Discover

- Mythology, legends and mysteries from a variety of ancient cultures, including Roman, Greek, Egyptian and Norse
- Learn key historical concepts
- Use and analyse historical sources and develop your research and explanation skills

## Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in your school fees)

## Create

- Create an inquiry question to focus your research about a myth or legend of your choice (for example, if studying Norse mythology your question might be, "Who was the God Balder, and what did he do?")
- Presentations to teach your peers about your discoveries

## Share

- Your learning using a medium of your choice (e.g. poster, written report, video, infographic). These will be displayed as part of student learning showcases, including Open Day



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 History's Mysteries
- Year 9 History Elective
- Year 10 History Elective



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC Ancient History
- Preliminary and HSC Modern History



### Career

- Archivist
- Museum Curator
- Librarian
- Information Manager
- Historian

# SPORT-X



**Are you passionate about all things sport, health and physical fitness? Do you love challenging yourself physically and mentally to achieve your sporting goals? Are you curious about the biomechanics and psychology behind high performance, or do you wonder what happens behind the scenes of successful sporting events? SPORT-X is for the natural athlete or sports enthusiast and offers a range of options to assist students hone their passion.**

Our SPORT-X teachers are from our Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) Faculty. They are passionate about their subject areas and love facilitating deep learning in their students.

They craft driving questions to ignite wonder and passion in their class, and guide each student to develop their own ideas, stretch their limits, work through problems, ask tough questions, reflect and share their learning.

They all share a lifelong commitment to health and physical activity - outside of work they coach, watch, officiate, administer and play all kinds of sports.



Pictured: Mr McGavern, left, CROSSFIT Teacher

***“I love what I’m teaching. Sport is a huge part of my life. I coach aerobics, Special Olympics swimming and adjudicate national aerobics competitions. I love developing athletes and seeing them achieve their goals. Teaching students who are keen to develop and expand their sporting passion is the best.” - Ms Brown, SPORT-X Coordinador***



## Meet Ruby - Sport Academy student

### Why I chose this elective

I chose Sports Academy because I love sport and exercise. I wanted to learn more about sport and how our body works.

### What I love about my elective

I love how it’s a mix of sport and theory. You learn different skills and different sports.



# Sports Academy

**For students who are passionate about fitness, teamwork and exploring the anatomy of movement**

## Discover

- The role of different body systems in movements in your favourite sport
- The elements of a winning team
- Diverse fitness training strategies for a specific purpose
- More about the Sports Industry through workshops with coaches, physiotherapists, sport scientists and elite athletes

## Create

- A beginner's guide to your favourite sport
- Plan and prepare for a physical challenge that will test your limits
- Actively participate in a range of individual and team games

## Share

- Showcase your learning and skills through participation in a cross campus sports gala day
- Share your reflections on the industry expert workshops
- Share your awesome beginner's guide to your favourite sport in class and at Open Day



## Tips for applying

- In your application form be sure to share about your experience and achievements in individual and team sports as well as why you want to do this course

## Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in school fees)
- Students are required to actively participate in a range of individual and team games and specialist sporting workshops



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Sports Academy continued
- Year 9 and 10 Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS)



### Stage 6 subject selection

- Preliminary and HSC PDHPE
- Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation
- Cert III in Sports Studies



### Career

- Coach/Trainer
- Sport Scientist
- Physiotherapist
- Sport Administrator
- Professional Athlete

# STEM-X

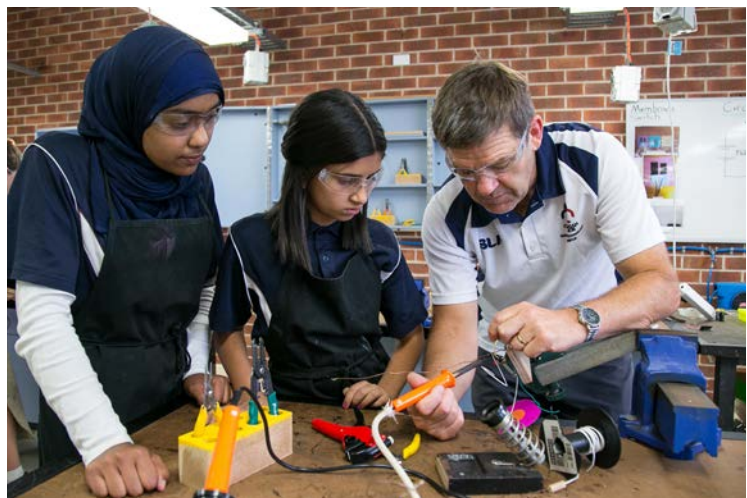


**Are you passionate about coding, exploring the natural world or designing and building structures? Are you curious about how things work, or are you always coming up with creative solutions to a problem? Are you a fan of numbers, or do you love hands-on experiments? STEM-X offers a range of choices for students who are natural problem solvers and critical thinkers and have an interest in maths, science or technology.**

Our STEM-X teachers are from our Science, Maths and Technological and Applied Studies (TAS) Faculties. They are passionate about their subject areas and love facilitating deep learning in their students.

They craft driving questions to ignite wonder and passion in their class, and guide each student to develop their own ideas, stretch their thinking, work through problems, ask tough questions, reflect and share their learning.

They are all life long learners in STEM and are committed to developing the next generation of innovators.



Pictured: Mr Hamilton, right, STEM-X Coordinator

***“I have always loved how versatile and adaptive technology is in our world. It’s exciting that we now have much greater access to technology, such as 3D printing, to solve everyday problems. I love problem solving and utilising my creativity and it’s very rewarding to witness the development of these skills in my students.”***

***- Mr Brent Scrivener, Exploring Future Technologies Teacher***

## Meet Zanetta - Exploring Future Technologies student

### Why I chose this elective

I chose this elective because I wanted to learn more about tech, what effect it would have in the future and how to use it to have fun. The Exploring Future Technologies is perfect for me because I get to learn all of this and more!

### What I love about my elective

I love my elective because we do a lot of practical work, we get the chance to work independently

and we get to use computers instead of writing stuff down. I also love the way our projects encourage us to think about how to use tech to benefit others.

STEM-X Exploring Future Technologies is just one option, the STEM-X stream also covers Executive Chef and Minecraft. Turn the page to find out more.



# Executive Chef

**For foodies curious about the science behind food preparation**

## Discover

- Food technology used within the kitchen
- Develop knowledge and skills in food health and safety
- The science behind food preparation
- Explore the evolution of the contemporary Australian cuisine

## Create

- Design, plan and prepare food that is safe to eat and reflects Australia's everchanging cuisine
- A journal/portfolio of your learning throughout the year

## Share

- Showcase your learning at our campus Open Day through meal samples, recipe cards and your learning journal

## Tips for applying

- In your application form be sure to share about your past experiences with cooking and say why you want to do this course
- Consider including some photos of some of your kitchen experiments

## Parent Information

- Cost: \$80 (itemised in your school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Executive Chef continued or Food Science
- Year 9 and 10 Food and Design
- Year 9 and 10 Food Technology



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC Food Technology
- Hospitality (VET)



### Career

- Chef
- Dietitian
- Nutritionist
- Food Artist
- Food Scientist

# Exploring Future Technologies

For techies who want to use technology to improve lives

## Discover

- The applications for robotics and other emerging technologies
- How to use technology creatively to solve problems
- Develop skills in computational thinking
- How technology is used in industry through class visits from local business owners

## Create

- A range of digital solutions using technologies such as coding, Computer Aided Drawing (CAD), 3D printing, radio controlled technologies (eg. drones) and robotics
- Plan, manage and engage in both individual and team projects

## Share

- Showcase your projects at our school Open Day. You might display a 3D printed model or show your robot navigating an obstacle course
- A journal detailing your learning journey

## Tips for applying

- In your application form be sure to share about your experience with coding and other technology, explain why you love technology and why you want to do this course

## Parent Info

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in school fees)
- Students will compete in robotics competitions and visit local businesses as part of this course



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Exploring Future Technologies
- Year 9 and 10 iSTEM
- Year 9 and 10 Graphics
- Year 9 and 10 Exploring Future Technologies



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Design and Technology
- Information Processes and Technology
- Software Design and Development
- Mathematics



### Career

- Engineer (electrical, electronic and mechatronics)
- Computer Programmer
- Software Developer
- Web Developer



# Construction in Minecraft

**For coders, builders, gamers and designers who want to learn STEM skills while doing projects with friends**

## Discover

- Learn how to install and use the features and functions of two versions of Minecraft - Minecraft Edu and Minecraft Education
- Learn about planning, evaluation, design, problem solving, spatial mathematical awareness, coding, navigation, engineering and automation
- Develop soft skills in collaboration, communication, openness to feedback and adaptability through team based construction projects

## Create

- Participate in various team challenges and projects, including designing and building an automated factory or bridge, programming virtual robots to complete various tasks and creating interactive games
- Complete a minor and major mini group project based on the skills you have learned - create your own driving question, plan, construct, work iteratively to refine your creations and then share and communicate about your work with a wider audience

## Share

- Videos and screen shots of your builds
- Your project planning documents and reflections on your learning
- Your creations through opening your worlds for others to explore during lunch breaks
- Assessments in this course are based on project work. There are no set tests or assignments

## Tips for applying

- In your application be sure to share about your previous experience and achievements using Minecraft. Show us what you can do!
- Consider sharing some screen shots of your creations and tell us why you want to do this course

## Parent Information

- \$50 (itemised on your school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Design in Minecraft
- Year 9 and 10 Minecraft elective



### Stage 6 subject selection

- Preliminary and HSC Information Processing and Technology (IPT)
- Preliminary and HSC Engineering Science
- Preliminary and HSC Physics or Chemistry



### Career

- Software Engineer
- Information Technology
- Electrical Engineer
- Architect
- Designer

# Taster Electives



Do you love variety, hands-on learning, or having a go at something you've never done before? Are you keen to experiment and keep a broad range of interests rather than specialising in a single area? Are you still searching for your true passion? Our Taster Electives offer something for everyone - you can try your hands at textiles or woodwork, play a range of sports or learn new skills in food preparation. The aim of our Taster Elective stream is to give you a taste of the kinds of subjects on offer in later years of high school.

Our Taster Elective teachers are from our Technological and Applied Science (TAS), Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE), English, Languages Other Than English (LOTE) and Human Society in its Environment (HSIE) Faculties. They love their subject areas and enjoy introducing students to what's on offer in their field through practical learning.

They craft driving questions to ignite wonder and passion in their class, guide each student to develop their skills and ideas, assist them to work through problems and encourage them to reflect and share their learning.



Pictured: Mr Gorgievski, centre, Industrial Arts Teacher

***“One of the things I remember fondly as a kid was nailing stuff to old bits of scrap timber from around our house. Twenty-five years on and I still love working with timber and helping to nurture and ignite that same enthusiasm in my students.” - Mr Hamilton, ‘Nailed It’ Teacher***

## Meet Alaura and Finn - ‘What’s Cooking’ and ‘Nailed it’ electives

### Why I chose this elective

I chose this elective because I thought it would be a great way to step out of my comfort zone and make new friendships.



### What I love about my elective

I love that you learn really good skills so you can help your family with cooking at home. I also like the way we work as a team - we all do our bit to make a really good dish.

### Why I chose this elective

I tried ‘Nailed It’ as an elective as I wanted try something new and thought that it might help me later in life.

### What I love about my elective

My teacher, the people in my class and that I get some freedom to choose my focus.



# Drama

## For the performer who loves the art of theatre

### Discover

- The importance of drama in modern society
- The fundamentals of effective performance
- The roles of the various professionals involved in a stage production, including dramatists, stage and costume designers, sound and lighting technicians
- Visit our new drama facilities at Jesmond Senior Campus

### Create

- Performances and demonstrations set by both your teacher and classmates
- Write scripts and actively participate in improvisation and theatre games

### Share

- Showcase your skills at events such as Variety Night and theatre sports challenges

### Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in school fees)
- Be sure your child is ok with class and public performances as they are required as part of this course



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Drama
- Year 9 and 10 Drama



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC Drama



### Career

- Actor
- Director
- Producer
- Stage Manager
- Set, Lighting or Sound Designer

# Just Do It

## Discovering sports from around the world

### Discover

- Discover and participate in sports from around the world
- Explore and discover the meaning of sport to Australians and why it's such an important part of our culture

### Create

- A tournament of sports from around the world
- A timeline of Australian sporting heroes and reflect on why a particular hero is important to you

### Share

- Demonstrate a game you have researched and teach it to your class with assistance
- Share your love of sport through active participation in class activities

### Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Just Do It
- Year 9 and 10 Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS)



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC PDHPE
- Preliminary and HSC Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation (SLR)



### Career

- Sports Scientist
- Physiotherapist
- Coach
- Sport Administrator
- Athlete

# CrossFit

Develop a lifelong love of movement with this all round fitness course

## Discover

- Safe movement and lifting techniques
- The fundamentals of nutrition and recovery
- The principles of managing competitive sporting events

## Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in school fees)

## Create

- You will actively participate in CrossFit strength and conditioning and functional fitness group training, tailored to your individual goals
- Contribute to the organisation and management of an annual CrossFit Tournament by taking on one of the numerous roles and responsibilities for the event
- Participate in seminars covering the theory of nutrition and recovery, biomechanics, event management and more

## Share

- Your learning in event management through your active role in organising the annual CrossFit Tournament
- Your mastery of movement patterns in a number of foundational exercises through participation in practical assessments



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 CrossFit
- Year 9 and 10 Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS)



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC PDHPE
- Preliminary and HSC Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation (SLR)



### Career

- Sports Scientist
- Physiotherapist
- Coach/Trainer
- Sport Administrator
- Athlete

# Planet Savers

For environmentalists who want to make a difference

## Discover

- More about local and global environmental issues and management strategies

## Create

- The class will become our school's Planet Savers Enviro Team and will plan and lead a number of environmental awareness and sustainability projects within the school community
- You will have the opportunity to pick your own passion project or work on a sustainability initiative. Possible interest areas could include animal conservation, tree planting, climate cam, weather monitoring, organic gardening, worm farming, recycling and energy saving

## Share

- This course is about thinking globally and acting locally. You will help spread the message of environmental awareness within our school and participate in initiatives such as Earth Hour, Climate Cam, World Environment Day, National Tree Day etc.

## Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in your school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Possibility of extension into a Personal Interest Project in Year 8, 9 or 10



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC Geography
- Preliminary and HSC Earth and Environmental Science



### Career

- Environmental Scientist
- Ecologist
- Policy Advisor
- Environmental Health Officer
- Environmental Engineer



# What's Cooking

## Learn the basics of cooking

### Discover

- The basics of cooking
- How to safely work in a kitchen using a variety of equipment and cookery methods

### Create

- Experiment with recipes to create new food flavours and experiences
- Develop food to specific themes (e.g. magical foods and potions and Devonshire tea)

### Share

- Plan and hold a Devonshire tea event with invited guests at the end of Semester One in Year 7
- Design and host a themed magical food event at the end of Semester Two with invited guests
- Make regular journal entries as a story board of your project's progression. You will be assessed on the quality of your project and journal

### Parent Information

- Cost: \$80 (itemised in school fees)



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 What's Cooking
- Year 9 and 10 Food and Design
- Year 9 and 10 Food Technology
- Year 10 Hospitality (VET)



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC Food Technology
- Hospitality (VET)



### Career

- Chef
- Dietitian
- Nutritionist
- Food Artist
- Food Scientist

# Nailed It

## Learn how to make things from timber

### Discover

- Learn how to safely cut, join and shape wood using a range of hand and machine tools
- Learn about the characteristics and versatility of different types of wood

### Create

- Your own wooden artefacts. They will include small boxes, bowls, toys and household utility and decorative pieces
- Make regular entries in a storyboard to document your projects' progression

### Share

- Showcase your projects at our campus Open Day and information evenings. They will also be a great gift for someone special!

### Parent Information

- Cost: \$50 (itemised in school fees)
- Students will visit local sites, businesses and exhibitions where timber is the focus



### Future Pathway

- Year 8 Nailed It



### Stage 6 Subject Selection

- Preliminary and HSC Industrial Technology (Timber/Metal)
- Preliminary and HSC Design and Technology



### Career

- Carpenter
- Wood Turner
- Cabinet Maker
- Builder
- Architect

# FAQ's

## **What is the benefit of applying for an X-Stream?**

The benefit is you will be extended in an area of interest. You also get first choice of electives within this stream in future years of high school.

## **What is the difference between the X-Streams and Taster Elective streams?**

X-Streams are designed to extend and deepen your learning in an established area of interest, whereas the Taster Electives give you an introduction to a subject you may not have tried before. We encourage you to choose a Taster Elective if you prefer variety over specialising in a single area.

## **Can I apply for more than one X-Stream?**

Yes. You can apply for up to 2 streams – your first choice X-Stream and your back up X-Stream in case your first choice application is unsuccessful.

## **Does my second elective choice need to be in the same stream as my first choice?**

No. You can apply for a second stream.

## **What if my application for an X-Stream is not successful?**

If your X-Stream application is not accepted you will be contacted by our EXCEL Coordinator, Ms Rose to talk about your options.

## **What if I don't like my elective course?**

If you don't like your elective, you can request to change by notifying your Year Advisor or our EXCEL Coordinator, Ms Rose by the end of Week 4 Term 1 of Year 7.

## **Can I swap streams in Year 8?**

You are welcome to change to the Taster stream, but only under exceptional circumstances can you swap X-Streams. For the latter, you need to complete the application paperwork and provide strong reasons for the change. You will also be required to complete a bridging course.

Students who choose to remain in the same stream do not have to reapply for their X-Stream each year.

## **Can I swap electives within my stream for Year 8?**

Yes! Each year you will be asked your preferred electives to study for the following year. If your preferred elective is in the same stream, you won't have to do any additional paperwork associated with applying for a new stream and you will be provided with a bridging course if required.

## **How will my learning be assessed in my EXCEL program?**

Assessment strategies are no different from in your core subjects. Teachers will use a variety of assessment methods to monitor your learning progression of knowledge, skills and understanding delivered during the course. There's just a greater focus on showcasing or presenting your learning and assessing your progression in the development of future learning skills.

## **Who can I talk to if I need help with my application?**

Talk to your Year 6 teachers and parents/carers in the first instance. If you still need help, please contact Ms Rose, EXCEL Coordinator



# Application Form

You can apply for your preferred EXCEL stream and select your preferred electives by completing this 5 step form. Note: if Taster is your preferred pathway, you can skip step 3.

## Step 1: Fill out your information

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Carer Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary School Principal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary School Principal Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Step 2: Select your preferred stream:

<input type="radio"/> CREATE-X	<input type="radio"/> QUEST-X	<input type="radio"/> SPORT-X	<input type="radio"/> STEM-X	<input type="radio"/> TASTER
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## Step 3: If you are applying for an X-Stream, please answer the following:

1. Why you want to be considered for a place in this X-Stream:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Please list any achievements, awards or other evidence that demonstrate your interest/talent in this X-Stream area (you can include photocopies of these with your application):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Step 4: Select your 1st choice elective:**

CREATE-X	QUEST-X	SPORT-X	STEM-X	TASTER
<input type="radio"/> Music	<input type="radio"/> Creative License	<input type="radio"/> Sports Academy	<input type="radio"/> Executive Chef	<input type="radio"/> Drama
<input type="radio"/> Visual & Digital Arts	<input type="radio"/> Dinosaurs to Space Exploration		<input type="radio"/> Future Technologies	<input type="radio"/> Just Do It
<input type="radio"/> Dance	<input type="radio"/> Aboriginal Studies		<input type="radio"/> Construction with Minecraft	<input type="radio"/> CrossFit
	<input type="radio"/> Languages of the World			<input type="radio"/> Planet Savers
	<input type="radio"/> Legend, Myth & Mystery			<input type="radio"/> What's Cooking
				<input type="radio"/> Nailed It

**Important Information:**

Classes will only be formed if viable numbers exist, and in some cases class numbers will be capped due to access to specialist facilities.

As a result there is no guarantee you will get your first choice elective. To ensure this does not eliminate student choice, we ask all students to select a second elective preference. Please turn the page and complete Step 5 of this form.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Primary School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 5: Select your 2nd choice elective:**

CREATE-X	QUEST-X	SPORT-X	STEM-X	TASTER
<input type="radio"/> Music	<input type="radio"/> Creative License	<input type="radio"/> Sports Academy	<input type="radio"/> Executive Chef	<input type="radio"/> Drama
<input type="radio"/> Visual & Digital Arts	<input type="radio"/> Dinosaurs to Space Exploration		<input type="radio"/> Future Technologies	<input type="radio"/> Just Do It
<input type="radio"/> Dance	<input type="radio"/> Aboriginal Studies		<input type="radio"/> Construction with Minecraft	<input type="radio"/> CrossFit
	<input type="radio"/> Languages of the World			<input type="radio"/> Planet Savers
	<input type="radio"/> Legend, Myth & Mystery			<input type="radio"/> What's Cooking
				<input type="radio"/> Nailed It

**If your second choice elective (above) is in a different X-Stream than your first elective choice, please answer:**

**1. Why you want to be considered for a place in this X-Stream:**

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**2. Please list any achievements, awards or other evidence that demonstrate your interest/talent in this X-Stream area:**

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**Please return your completed application form to your Year 6 teacher by Monday 17 September 2020**



**“I’m continually impressed at how Callaghan College embraces new ways of learning in a meaningful way to help prepare students for the real world.”**

**- Professor John Fischetti,  
Pro Vice-Chancellor  
Faculty of Education and Arts  
University of Newcastle**

